

First Presbyterian Church of Fulton

God's People Connecting.... February, 26- March 4, 2021!

This Week, Pastor Aaron Asks: "How might the work of taking up the cross free us today?"

When asked to consider why it is that the Son of Man came into the world, Christian believers often focus their thoughts on the image of Christ as the suffering Savior who came to die for the sins of the world. But Jesus is much more than this; he is the Messiah who has come to lead us into everlasting life in the kingdom of God. But if we are to follow God's "anointed one," into the kingdom, then we must at the same time follow him as he leads us away from the fallen powers of the world. This is precisely what Jesus is calling us to do when he directs his followers to "take up their cross."

Often, when we hear Jesus' call for us to take up our own crosses, we have mistakenly assumed that he is telling us to accept that we will have to die the same death as him. In fact, this sort of thinking is exactly what the powers of this world want us to accept. The source of human power has traditionally relied on the ability of one person to intimidate another into a posture of surrender, out of the fear of death. But when we deny ourselves—our fear of death—and take up our crosses, then we deny those authorities any real power over our lives. As we choose to follow Jesus, we chose a life in which fear and shame are replaced with trust and love. This is the glorious power of the kingdom of God.

This week, as we prepare for worship, we encourage you to reflect upon our Scripture lessons: Mark 8:27-9:1 and Romans 4:13-25. You may also wish to consider your own responses to the following questions:

- Are there human authorities that still attempt to rule us through fear? What are the modern tactics of fear that they use?
- How might the work of taking up the cross free us today? How might it help lead others to share in this freedom?

You're welcome to share your reflection by sending an email to the pastor. We can't wait to be united with you in worship!

Hear The Word: Looking Ahead Toward Sunday, February 28, 2021

The image is a composite of two photographs. On the left is a digital flyer for First Presbyterian Church of Fulton. It features the church's name at the top, followed by the date "Sunday, February 28th | 10:30 a.m. | 718 Court St." and "This Week's Message:". Below this is a large red play button icon. To the right of the play button is the text "THE SAME OL' THING" in red, bold letters. Underneath it, it says "Worship with us in-person or on our YouTube channel!" and provides the URL "bit.ly/fpcfultonyoutube" and social media links for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. On the right side of the composite image is a blurred, colorful photograph of several cars, possibly in motion, with a focus on their bumpers and headlights.

Worship and Reflection This Week...

Sunday, February 28, 2021 (The First Sunday in Lent- Year B)

Liturgical Color: Purple

Usher Captain this Week: Vince Logan

Old Testament Lesson: [Mark 8:27-9:1](#)

Gospel Lesson: [Romans 4:13-25](#)

Sermon by Rev. Aaron White:

The Same Ol', Same Ol' Thing

When Jesus calls upon his followers to “deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me,” (Mark 8:34), he isn’t commanding us to march to our deaths. Rather, he is directing us to see the world for what it truly is. For far too long, God’s people had believed that the favor of God would be demonstrated in their lives when they achieved human successes, such as military victories over their adversaries, the restoration of political autonomy for the kingdom of Israel, and renewed economic prosperity for its citizens. And yet, when we use these metrics to measure the health of our relationship with God, we “are setting [our minds] not on divine things but on human things.” (v. 33)

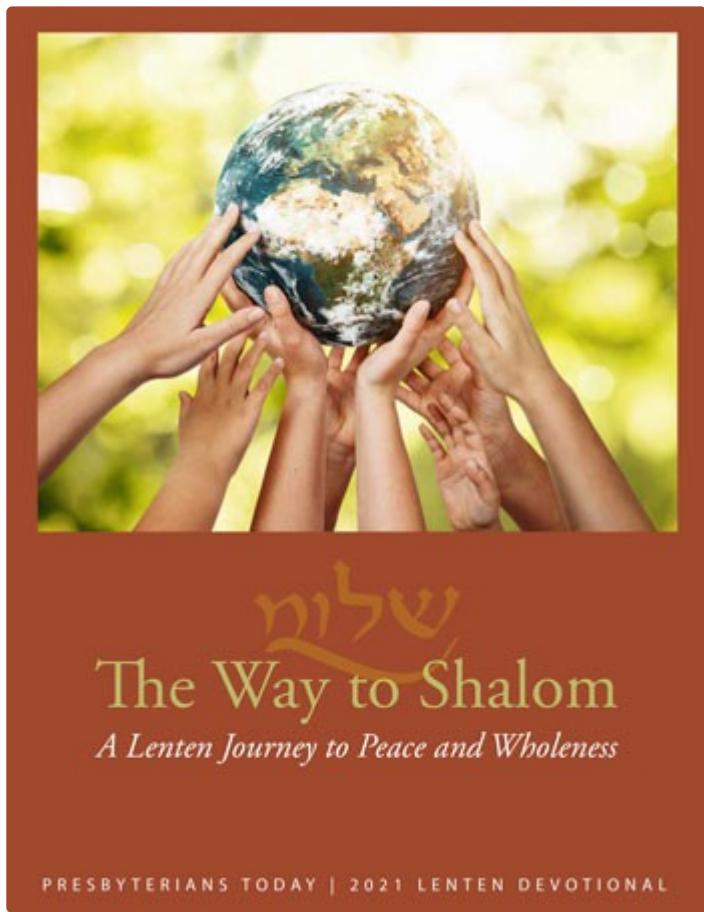


In this second week of Lent, we learn that although Jesus has come to be the Messiah, we cannot truly understand what this title means without a complete reorientation of our understanding of true power. While the rulers of this world continue to perpetuate the same old lie that power will be preserved through oppression, exploitation, and violence, God’s anointed Savior exposes the truth that the glorious power of the kingdom of God is being realized through compassion, humility, and peace. In this knowledge, we take up our crosses not in fear that we will lose our lives, but instead, with the sure and certain hope that, through Christ, our lives are saved.

Additional readings from the Revised Common Lectionary:

[Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31](#)

Lenten Devotional 2021: The Way of Shalom!



The Second Week in Lent: Readings for 2/28/21 through 3/6/21!!

Second Week in Lent

Shalom: the way to the promise of peace

Written by Catherine Gordon



Reflect

Jesus gives us the promise of peace, but not as the world would define peace. Peace is not the absence of trouble or conflict, but the certainty that in life's storms, we have a Savior to calm the seas. Where in your life can you recall the stormy seas being calmed? How did it feel to know that amid trouble you were being held safe and secure? Where is this peace that passes all understanding needed right now in your home, community, church or country?

Add to your peace prayer "tree"

This past week, the Rev. Jimmie R. Hawkins lifted up prayers for peace in several parts of the world. Take strips of fabric and add to your peace "tree" — or railing or fence — the word for "peace" in the various languages that Hawkins shared. After writing each word out, close your eyes, hold the fabric and pray for God's peace to be felt by those in that region. The words for peace highlighted in the first week of Lenten devotionals are: shalom (Hebrew), salam (Arabic), dohiyi (Cherokee), paz (Spanish), udo (Igbo/Nigeria), wolakota (Lakota), pyonghwa (Korean) and nye (Ntomba/Congo). Now think about those close to you who are feeling restless or scared this Lenten season. Write their names down and pray for peace to wash over them.

For Devotional Readings 2/28-3/6/21, click on the picture or go to:

<http://bit.ly/3bKJsH8>

Show Us Your Prayer Tree!



If you are creating a prayer tree while using the Way of Shalom devotional, please share a picture of your reflections with others. Watch this space throughout the Lenten Season for new ways to share your prayers for peace and wholeness.

Send pictures of your prayer tree for use in the next newsletter to:
communications@fultonpresbyterian.org

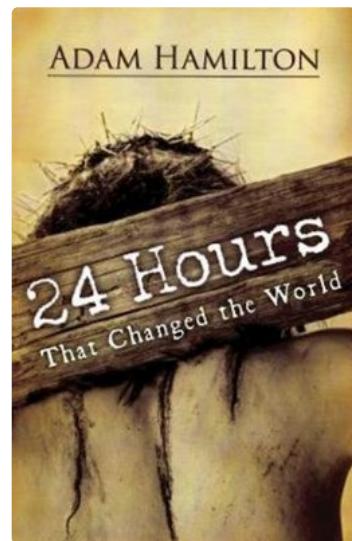
Lenten Study Series Starts This Sunday: 2/28 from 6-7 pm!

This year we will be revisiting the *24 Hours That Changed the World Lenten Study Series*.

Rev. Helen Logan will moderate our walk with author Adam Hamilton as he takes us on a journey of the Holy Land to explore the last 24 hours of Christ's life on Earth.

**Weekly meetings will be held virtually
at 6:00 pm each Sunday.**

This is a multi-week series that will use author Adam Hamilton's book and video journey of the Holy Land to experience and understand the significance of Jesus' final hours. Drawing on insights from history, archaeology, geography, and the Bible, Hamilton takes us to the Holy Land and provides a deeper understanding of the most amazing day in history. We visit the sites where those earth-shaking events took place, and we walk where Jesus walked along the road that led to the pain and triumph of the cross.



If you would like to participate, you must contact Bob Hoell at bobhoell@dimensionsinwood.com or call him at 573-268-7090 to make a reservation and ensure you receive a Zoom link. If you do not use email, please call Bob Hoell immediately to work out a personal plan of participation.

*Rev. Helen Logan requests that you bring your Bible, any reflections or questions, and a copy of the study guide if you have one to each meeting.
Free copies of materials are available in the church lobby.*



Do You Have Musical Talent You Would Like to Share? Contact Ethan Forte!

Church Music Director Ethan Forte is looking for instrumentalist or vocalist who would like to share their God-given talent during a Sunday Worship Service. He is also looking for additional "hands" to join the growing FPC Bell Choir. If you, a member of your family, or a musical friend would like to join us for praise and worship through music, please contact Ethan.

ekfgw7@mail.missouri.edu

or

Call 573-416-2605

THE RESULTS ARE IN: SOUPER BOWL 2021 EFFORTS SCORES BIG WIN AGAINST HUNGER!

The mission committee reports receiving additional contributions bringing the Souper Bowl cash donation total to \$1,960. Rev. White reports that after taking the Fulton Preschool donations to the SERVE Food Pantry, we have collected a combined total of 392.25 pounds of food worth \$682.52.

THANKS TO ONE AND ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!

Our YouTube Channel Needs 100 Subscribers!

WE KNOW YOU ARE WATCHING THE LIVESTREAMS AND RECORDINGS,
BUT DO YOU SUBSCRIBE?



Reaching 100 subscribers gives a YouTube Channel more flexibility and reach. This means First Presbyterian Church is able to spread The Good News to more people! Subscribing is easy. Just follow these simple steps!

To Subscribe:

1. Open any web browser and go to: <https://bit.ly/fpcfultonyoutube>.
2. Subscribe by clicking on the red rectangle on the right side of the page.
3. Set notifications by clicking on the bell icon.
4. Be sure to bookmark this page so you can easily find it in the future.

To enable auto-generated closed captioning:

CLICK THE YOUTUBE LOGO TO VIEW A CLOSED CAPTION TUTORIAL!

1. Go to the FPC YouTube Channel and select the video you wish to view with closed captions.
2. On the menu bar directly beneath the video window, you will see a gear-shaped icon for "Settings." Clicking on the icon will reveal a series of options, including the ability to turn on "Subtitles/CC."
3. After clicking on this option, you would want to select "English (auto-generated)."
4. To view, click on the side arrow to launch play. Once the video begins to play, YouTube will generate closed captioning.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hear The Word: Looking Ahead Toward Sunday, January 24, 2021

3 views • Premiered 4 hours ago

1 like 0

0 dislike

SHARE

SAVE

...



First Presbyterian Church

63 subscribers



SUBSCRIBE

Serving God has always presented faithful people with real challenges. For Jonah, the challenge was accepting the truth that God alone has the authority to determine who should or should not hear the call to repentance. For the disciples, the challenge was to leave behind their nets, their

SHOW MORE

Callaway COVID-19

Keeping Callaway informed on COVID-19



Do You Need a COVID-19 Vaccination?

If you are looking for a way to register for COVID-19 Vaccination clinics, here are some links where you can register your interest.

Callaway County Health Department

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2DKZBC2>

MU Health

<https://www.muhealth.org/form/covid-vaccine-survey>

Missouri COVID-19 Vaccine Navigator

[https://modhss.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_231d5TxZxkGedCt
?fbclid=IwAR0KHXUrzyr_aw4-X54m1W-
6czs4oApkRIRKZF6Q4XWNm4RZYrfXwCZ7-QA](https://modhss.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_231d5TxZxkGedCt?fbclid=IwAR0KHXUrzyr_aw4-X54m1W-6czs4oApkRIRKZF6Q4XWNm4RZYrfXwCZ7-QA)

For More information:

MOStopsCovid.com



How We Worship During the COVID-19 Pandemic...

The continuing Coronavirus Pandemic requires us to adhere to the Church Safety Protocols put in place by the FPC Session in July when we returned to in-person worship services after an extended shut-down. Now that we are entering the regular cold and flu

season, wearing masks, frequent use of hand sanitizer, and the observance of CDC guidelines for six feet of social distance between family groups is even more important to our ability keep our congregation safe and healthy. Our observance of these protocols will continue.

However, we are also approaching the cherished season of Advent and this requires us to exercise our God-given creativity as we plan and carry out the special worship services that are so precious to all. Recent Updates of FPC Church Safety Protocols include:

- The congregation will be allowed to stand, recite liturgy, and sing hymns in soft voices while still wearing face masks at all times.
- In addition to the mix of instrumental music that Ethan and Kelly have so beautifully arranged, the choir will be allowed to incorporate a soloist who will perform from a CDC-recommended distance for singers.
- Advent candle lighting will be pre-recorded and incorporated into the video display each Sunday in Advent. All involved will be scheduled for recording sessions in advance and Church Safety Protocols will be observed during those times.

If you have any other questions about these changes to our Church Safety Protocol, please feel free to discuss it with Rev. White or any member of Session.

Opportunities to Serve, Special Messages, & Important Church Notes!

- **Have you thought of joining the FPC Bell Choir?**

Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. To find out more about joining this unique group, or to share your musical talent, please contact Choir Director Ethan Forte at ekfgw7@mail.missouri.edu or call 573-416-2605.



Love in Action

- **Would you like to learn how to livestream worship services? If you would like to learn how to operate the recording equipment and are willing to help with this Sunday morning duty, please contact Shaun Speers or Rev. White for more information.**

We are now able to livestream services on our YouTube channel. If you would like to participate in Sunday worship, but cannot attend in person, you can now open any web browser and go to: <https://bit.ly/fpcfultonyoutube> at 10:30 am to participate in real time, or any time you choose to view the recorded version.

- **Spread the Word to All of the Middle & High School Students in Your Life: The Rock is Back! We welcome all middle and high school students to join us at The Rock each Sunday evening at 6:00 pm. 715 Nichols Street, Fulton, Missouri.**

- **Would you like to join the Usher Team?** Volunteers are needed to help carry out our Hospitality Mission. If you are interested in being a regular or fill-in usher, please contact Bob Hoell to find out more!

- **Church Lock-Up Volunteers are Needed!** Volunteers are needed to lockup the Church after Sunday service. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the lobby. Those that can support, please sign up for desired dates. If you have any questions on what it entails, please ask Mark Covey at 573-327-0297, or another Property Committee member.
- **Contributions to the SERVE Food Pantry and Our House Shelf Stockers** will continue to be collected as part of our ***Fishes and Loaves Offering***. Our House needs a new refrigerator and is still accepting monetary donations for this purpose. Checks may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed to: First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 6037, Fulton, MO 65251. You may also give through the GIVE+Online Church Giving link on our website. Just write "Our House" or "SERVE Food Pantry" in the memo line to ensure your donation goes to the right organization

Office Hours & Contact Information!

How to Contact Rev. Aaron White

Rev. Aaron White is holding virtual office hours at this time. Please call him on his cell phone, (573) 590-3136 or contact him by email pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org.



How Will I Continue Giving During This Time?

Checks for pledges and offerings, and documents that are normally hand-delivered on Sunday mornings can be mailed to:

First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 6037, Fulton, MO 65251

If you prefer online giving, use our new GIVE+ Online giving system through the website or the GIVE+ Mobile app.

Our committees Gmail accounts that can be used to email them suggestions, concerns, and thanks.

The addresses are:

- Session Clerk, "clerk@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Administration Committee, "administration@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Christian Education Committee, "education@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Fellowship Committee, "fellowship@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Mission Committee, "mission@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Congregational Care Committee, "pastoralcare@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Property Committee, "property@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Worship Committee, "worship@fultonpresbyterian.org"
- Communications, "communications@fultonpresbyterian.org"

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 Church

Actively Engaged in the World



Rev. Aaron White, Pastor

pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org – (573) 642-5541

718 Court Street, Downtown Fulton, Missouri

Visit our Website: www.fultonpresbyterian.org



Welcome to Our Church!

Facebook

@FPCFulton

First Presbyterian Church is located at 718 Court Street in historic downtown Fulton, Missouri. Worship services, under the direction of Rev. Aaron White, are held each Sunday morning. For more information, go to: www.fultonpresbyterian.org or find us on Facebook or on Twitter @FPCFulton.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel:

<https://bit.ly/fpcfultonyoutube>

718 Court Street, Fulton, MO, U...

communications@fultonpresby...

573-642-5541

fultonpresbyterian.org